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NEWSLETTER OF THE AREA PLANNING BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY 2300 PALM BEACH LAKES BLVD. WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33409

apb FORUM

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION: A CONTINUOUS CONCERN

Close administrative cooperation and coordination has become and remains a foremost concern among local governments and agencies today. Intergovernmental coordination has become a reality because a growing number of functions and concerns of local governments simply do not affect single jurisdictions. Local governments are recognizing that the solution to multi-jurisdictional concerns and issues do not necessarily lie in the continued creation of new jurisdictions or agencies, but rather in a joint and coordinated effort among jurisdictions experiencing similar problems. As a result, it is imperative to actively maintain and encourage even a greater degree of intergovernmental coordination that effectively addresses multi-jurisdictional concerns throughout the various levels of government within Palm Beach County or having jurisdiction within the County.

In terms of long range comprehensive planning, the State of Florida has deemed it appropriate and necessary for all local governments to coordinate their comprehensive planning activities. The 1975 Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act emphasizes the importance of intergovernmental coordination. Not only is intergovernmental coordination a major theme of the Act, but it is a required element to be addressed by all local governments in their respective comprehensive plans. The LGCPA furthers the commitment to intergovernmental coordination by requiring that a Technical Advisory Committee be established with representatives from all units of local governments in a single county (F.S. Chapter 163.3207).

This process of intergovernmental coordination is a major purpose and function of the Area Planning Board. The APB's enabling legislation states, in part, "The purpose of the board and its creation is to provide an effective agency for comprehensive, coordinated, long range planning of the development and improvement of the region through joint cooperation and participation of local governmental units, public officials and citizens." (Section 2, House Bill No. 2797)

Mr. Frank W. Brutt, Executive Director of the APB,(right) congratulates Mr. John Gubisch, City Planner for Belle Glade, in his election as Chairman of the LGCPA / TAC.

The APB has been fostering intergovernmental coordination through its continuing program of coordinating planning efforts of the various levels of federal, state, regional and local governments.

This coordination exists in the form of information exchanges, professional workshops and meetings, and general technical assistance. As discussed later in this newsletter, the APB is also directly involved, through contractual arrangement, with several municipalities in the development of their Comprehensive Development Plans as per the LGCPA. Continuous formal and informal coordination exists between the APB and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council through formal memorandums, reviews, comments, A-95 actions, and a general dialogue of planning and administrative discussions.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ASSISTANCE

The APB has entered into contractual agreement with eight municipalities to develop comprehensive plans which are in conformance with the requirements of the 1975 Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act (LGCPA). The contractual work varied in scope of services performed from complete revisions of existing comprehensive plans to partial updates to bring existing plans into conformance with the requirements of the Act. The municipalities with which the APB has contracted include: Atlantis, Belle Glade, Cloud Lake, North Palm Beach, Palm Beach Shores, Palm Springs, South Palm Beach and Tequesta. The contract work with these eight local governments began at various times during the year. The first contract was executed in June, 1978. Completion of the most recent contract is forecasted for June, 1979.

As noted, some of the municipal plans only required updates. The local governments in Palm Beach County were required to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans under the requirements of a 1974 local planning mandate required by a countywide desired amendment to the Area Planning Board enabling legislation. The 1975 LGCPA required that certain elements be prepared as part of local plans that were not required by the local planning legislation. Therefore, the APB was contracted by some municipalities to update their plans by the addition of these new elements. The elements generally included were: Conservation, Housing, Intergovernmental Coordination, Coastal Zone Protection (for municipalities bordering the ocean or Intracoastal) and Economic/Fiscal Considerations. Complete revisions involved the eight elements (excluding Coastal Zone Protection) required by the Act and update of other elements (e.g., protective services, community facilities, population) already within the municipality's existing plan.

The LGCPA required that each local government appoint a Local Planning Agency (LPA) to prepare their respective comprehensive plans. Five of the communities with which the APB has contracted have had their comprehensive plans approved by their LPA's by March. These communities include: Atlantis, Cloud Lake, North Palm Beach, Palm Springs and Tequesta. They will soon be transmitting their plans to the various required reviewing agencies for comment (Division of State Planning, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and the Board of County Commissioners). The remaining three local governments, Belle Glade, Palm Beach Shores, and South Palm Beach, are still involved in developing their respective comprehensive plans. These latter cities will thus, at a minimum, require an extention to the July 1, 1979 adoption deadline to complete their plans. Extensions are presently being considered by the State.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ACT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The 1975 Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act mandated the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the purpose of coordinating " . . . technical elements of a comprehensive plan and to advise local planning agencies and local governing bodies . . .". The LGCPA requires that all local governments within Palm Beach County appoint a representative to the TAC. Also, any special district which includes within its jurisdiction land in the County may appoint a representative.

Since November of 1977, the Comprehensive Planning Section of the Area Planning Board has coordinated the activities of the TAC (See APB FORUM Volume 12, Number 6, July 1978). The recent activities of the TAC have focused on the presentation of local comprehensive plans and/or elements thereof, for discussion by the entire Committee or by one of the five district subcommittees that have been formed. The TAC North District, chaired by John Giba of Tequesta, has been very active in intergovernmental coordination of comprehensive plan elements during their development phases. The TAC West District, under John Gubisch of Belle Glade, has also been active soliciting response from its membership. The TAC South District, headed by Daniel Kotulla of Delray Beach, in February, discussed the recently completed Boca Raton Comprehensive Plan. It is anticipated that in March, the TAC South Central District, lead by Russ Gilbert of Lake Clarke Shores, will meet to discuss the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Palm Beach and the City of Atlantis. A recent highlight of the TAC's work was the presentation and lengthy discussion of the Palm Beach County Land Use Element in October 1978.

During the summer of 1978, the TAC members were invited to attend two workshops sponsored by the APB. The first workshop dealt with water quality management ("208") planning and focused on the work of the APB's Environmental Planning Section in the Development of the Palm Beach County Areawide Waste Treatment Management Plan and the supplemental document Water Quality Management: A Multi-Jurisdictional Concern. This latter study proposed pollution control measures for the local governments of the C51 Basin (West Palm Beach Canal). The second workshop was concerned with Water Use Management Planning and focused on the Water Use Supply and Development Plan of the South Flor-

ida Water Management District. Members of the District's staff discussed their role in the LGCPA review process and the assistance that they could provide to local governments in developing water and drainage elements of comprehensive plans. The APB anticipates that those types of workshops will continue as new and important planning related information becomes available. In March, the Board will sponsor a workshop on the recently published Soil Survey of Palm Beach County Area, Florida in cooperation with the Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District.

As the July 1, 1979 deadline for adopting local comprehensive plans draws nearer, the activities of the TAC should become more numerous. If you have any questions about the TAC and its input into your local government's comprehensive plan or information about upcoming workshops, please contact Mr. John Kraynick, TAC Coordinator in the Comprehensive Planning Section of the Area Planning Board, at 683-9450.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

Economic development is characterized by many events and conditions, but the bottom line is employment retention of existing jobs and attraction or creation of new job opportunities. In the sphere of commerce and industry, decisions affecting production, and hence employment opportunities, are based on carefully compiled data about as many facets of the economy as pertains to a particular industry.

In Palm Beach County, the APB has the capability of supplying data on the local economy while providing related data on a regional, state, or national scope. Over the past few years the APB has been relied upon to provide data on the population, physical, and socioeconomic characteristics of the County to governmental agencies, organizations, and business people throughout Palm Beach County, the rest of Florida and the United States, Canada, and several Central and South American and Eastern European nations. This activity has accelerated recently, and the APB is now responding to several hundred inquiries each month. Answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the County can be found in the APB's publication Maps, Charts, and Statistical Data. This statistical information document is published annually by the Board. The 1978 issue is currently available at a cost of $7.50.

After having played a vital role in the drafting and submission of Palm Beach County's Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 1976, the APB requested funds from EDA to help update the OEDP and implement a coordinated economic development program with the Economic Council of Palm Beach County. The funding request received no action from EDA, but funding assistance through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Planning (701) program has enabled the APB staff to begin its program of economic development coordination.

The Economic Council and the APB have met several times to define their respective roles pertaining to economic development. Essentially, the Economic Council has the more active role of promoting development opportunities in the County, while the APB is concerned with providing data to interested parties and with coordinating economic development planning activities within the County.

In its joint role as economic development coordinator and Metropolitan (A-95) Clearinghouse, the APB has worked closely with the City of West Palm Beach on its proposal for the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) program for the revitalization of downtown West Palm Beach. Staff also worked with the City of Riviera Beach when it applied for EDA funds to establish an economic development planning program. The APB coordinated this proposal, through the A-95 process, with a similar countywide proposal.

Recently, the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce has established an Economic Development Committee. The APB provides a staff member to serve on the Committee. Staff also works with the other Chambers of Commerce located throughout the County on an as needed basis.

In the private sector, the APB has recently begun meeting with the railroads, industrial realtors and developers of industrial parks to learn about the needs of firms interested in the County along with specific on-going development activity in some of the industrial parks within the County.

BOARD NOTES

On February 16, 1979, the Legislative Delegation approved the Municipal League nominees to the APB. The appointments were: Mayor Thomas Altman of Belle Glade, Col. Fred Easley of West Palm Beach, Councilwoman Charlotte G. Durante of Delray Beach, President Charles W. Potter of Lantana, and Manager Shirley Vallan of Manalapan. The County appointments for 1979 were Commissioners Dennis P. Koehler and Norman Gregory, and County Attorney Richard Ellington. The School Board has appointed Mr. Thomas Sansbury. Mr. Potter and Mr. Altman were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively in the Board's 1979 reorganization meeting.

AREA PLANNING BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

Charles W. Potter CHAIRMAN	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Thomas Altman VICE CHAIRMAN	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Charlotte G. Durante	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Fred O. Easley	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Richard Ellington	Appointed by:	Board of County Commissioners Palm Beach County
Norman Gregory	Appointed by:	Board of County Commissioners Palm Beach County
Dennis P. Koehler	Appointed by:	Board of County Commissioners Palm Beach County
Thomas Sansbury	Appointed by:	School Board of Palm Beach County
Shirley K. Vallan	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Frank W. Brutt	Executive Director	

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